



Missouri Nursery Pest News

Office of the State Entomologist
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Timely information for Missouri's green industry!

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Recent Observations:

Catches of **Lilac/Ash Borer** in east central Missouri peaked about 10 days ago, with just a few additional catches this week. Spray applications should be under way (between Missouri's storms). Good trunk coverage is essential.

Euonymus scale crawlers were observed on winged euonymus (burning bush) in northeast Missouri. Be sure to check plants for signs of this damaging pest. Crawlers are the easiest life stage to control with properly timed insecticide applications.

Candles are expanding on evergreen trees in east central MO. We are nearing the time to be treating for needle diseases such as brown spot on Scotch pine, dothistroma on Austrian pine, rhizosphaera needlecast on blue spruce, and Swiss needlecast on douglas firs. Application recommendations vary slightly pending on the disease, but include: first application at bud break or when needles are half expanded for disease suppression on older needles, and then a follow-up application (about 3-4 weeks later) when needles are half to fully expanded to protect new foliage. Avoid shearing trees when they are wet. Thin crowded plantings and keep grass and weeds away from tree to allow good air circulation.

Downy mildew, foliar nematodes, and virus symptoms are among quarantined pests being found on perennials during recent dealer inspections. There are some growers making a conscious effort to keep these problems under control. Ask your supplier questions to make sure they are among them. Constant insect and disease detection and control is a must to have good quality stock.

Contributions by Susan Ehlenbeck and Nellie Brown, Plant Protection Specialists.

For more information:

Tree Diseases I, [Agricultural](#) publication MX342, University Publications, Columbia, MO

<http://muextension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/pests/g07274.htm>

<http://bugs.osu.edu/~bugdoc/Shetlar/factsheet/ornamental/EuonymusScale.pdf>

LILAC/ASH BORER

Podosesia syringae

Lepidoptera: Sesiidae

I. DESCRIPTION: Lilac/Ash borer

- Adult is a clearwing moth, strongly resembling a wasp, about 18-24 mm in length with 24-32 mm wingspan
- The body is brownish-black marked with chestnut red
- Larva is a caterpillar, creamy white in color with a brown head, approx. 26-34 mm at maturity

II. HOSTS: Lilac/Ash borer

- Fraxinus spp. (Green and White Ash)
- Syringae spp. (Lilac)

III. DAMAGE: Lilac/Ash borer

- The larvae bore into the wood of the host plant creating holes in the trunk and main crotch area
- Allow entrance holes for secondary infestations of insects and diseases

IV. LIFE CYCLE: Lilac/Ash borer

- Overwinters as nearly mature larva in the trunk or cane of the host
- Larva matures and pupates in the spring
- Adults emerge from early to mid-April thru June
- Eggs are laid on the bark of the host plants
- Usually one generation per year

V. INSPECTION TIPS: Lilac/Ash borer

- Sap mixed with fine frass oozing from small openings in the bark
- Light brown-tan colored sawdust-like frass
- Later frass extrudes in small clumps evident at entrance hole and at base of the plant
- Males readily attracted to pheromone traps

VI. CONTROL TIPS: Lilac/Ash borer

- Avoid mechanical injury to plants
- Maintain healthy plants to discourage oviposition
- Monitor adult flight activity with pheromone traps
- Chemical control using Dursban or Lindane applied to trunks and canes when adults begin flying and continued until flight period ends (mid April-mid June)

VII. COINCIDE TIMING: Lilac/Ash borer

- Begin treatment as Spirea X vanhouttei is in full to late bloom and repeat 3-4 weeks later, depending on residual activity of chemical (DDB50: 275-500).

Euonymus Scale
Unaspis euonymi
Homoptera: Diaspididae

I. DESCRIPTION

- Adult female has a dark shell and is about 1/16 inch long.
- Adult male is two-winged and emerges from its armor for mating.
- Immature males are elongate and white.
- Eggs and crawlers are orange-yellow.

II. HOSTS

- All euonymus are susceptible.
- Other hosts include: *Celastrus*, *Ilex*, *Camellia*, *Ligustrum*, *Olea*, *Lonicera*.

III. DAMAGE

- Feeding damage caused by nymphs and adults sucking plant fluids. May cause leaf drop. If the infestation is heavy enough, stems can be girdled and killed.

IV. LIFE CYCLE

- Overwinter as fertilized female adults.
- In mid-April, eggs are laid under the females shell.
- Nymphs hatch in late May and early June and are dispersed by crawling or are wind blown.
- A second generation hatches in late July to mid-August.

V. INSPECTION TIPS

- Yellow spots on leaves.
- White males become apparent. Brown females can be seen upon closer observation.

VI. CONTROL TIPS

- Apply a dormant oil before bud break.
- One of the following may be applied in late May or early June to control crawlers (susceptible stage): Fyfanon, Dursban, Guthion, Malathion, Turcam, Orthene, Closure 76WP, Dimethoate, Acephate, Azinphos-M.50W, Know-Out NL or Precision.

VII. COINCIDE TIMING

- Treat crawlers beginning when *Catalpa speciosa* are in early bloom. Repeat four times at 10-12 day intervals.

Remember: Before using any chemical, always read the label carefully for directions on application procedures, appropriate rates, first aid, storage, and disposal. Make sure chemical is properly registered for use on the intended pest. Any products named are not intended as endorsements, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned.